ahead with a newly launched Tibet rail line from Lhasa towards Nathula in Chumbi Valley;

(b) if so, whether any feasibility survey of the proposed North Bengal-Sikkim rail line has been made; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons for such delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey for a new line from Sivok to Singtam was conducted in 2000-01 as per which cost of construction of this 60 Kms long line was assessed as Rs. 1099 crore with negative rate of return (-)34%. The project could not be taken up because of unremunerative nature, constraint of resources and heavy throwforward of ongoing projects. However, based on demands, a survey for new line from Sivok to Rangpo has been taken up. As regards rail development in China, it is mentioned that the Government have seen reports that China plans to construct three more railway lines in the Tibet Autonomous Region-the two lines linking Lhasa with Nyingchi in the east and Xigaze to the west respectively and the third line linking Xigaze with Yadong, near the India-China border-over the next 10 years.

Wheel chair compartment

1304. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have decided to add a reserved wheel chair compartment to all mail express trains by the end of the year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the production of the Compartments for wheel chair users had started in 2001 and by March 31, this year 1159 such compartments has been made; and

(d) if so, why these compartments were not put into use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Indian Railways are manufacturing certain passenger coaches, which have a separate compartment specially

designed for wheel chair borne passengers. These compartments have facilities like wider door-way, aisle and knee space to permit easy movement of wheel chair, toilet adapted to needs of such passengers, arrangements for securing wheel chairs during the journey etc. Some coaches having such compartments are already in service as unreserved accommodation. It has been decided to provide one such coach in every mail/express train during next two years.

(c) yes, Sir. From 2001-02 upto 2005-06 a total of 1159 coaches having such specially designed compartments have been manufactured.

(d) These coaches have been in service as unreserved coaches since their manufacture.

Solapur-Gadga rail line

1305. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that railway line between Solapur to Gadga *via* Bijapur broad gauge line is incomplete;

(b) the details of the portion left out; and

(c) by when the work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Basavana Bagewadi-Bagalkot-Gadag.

(c) Basavana Bagewadi-Bagalkot is targeted for completion during 2006-07 and the remaining section in the coming years subject to deposition of balance share by the Government of Karnataka.

Regularisation of temporary employees

†1306. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to regularize such temporary employees who have completed 5 or 8 years in a department;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.